




STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
500 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2005

TO: Kathleen Clinton, Regional Director
Alan Bullard, Regional Director
John Craven, Regional Director

FROM: Stephen H. Norris
Deputy Commissioner 

CC: Larry Latham, Ph.D.
Joanna Damons, R.N.
Marlenia Overholt, R.N.

Clarification has been requested regarding allowing staff from a private ICF/MR to attend Medication Administration training provided by the Regional Offices. The expectation is that an ICF/MR may send one or more **registered nurses** to attend the Medication Administration training. Training materials would be provided to these nurse trainers, and they would be tested and certified. These nurses, once trained, will train the direct care staff in their facilities.

The Regional Offices are not expected to train **unlicensed direct care staff** from a private ICF/MR, to provide training materials for them, to certify them, or to include them in the test banks. The private ICF/MR will be responsible for setting up its own Medication Administration training program for its direct care staff.

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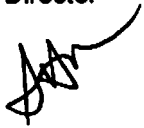


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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
500 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 19, 2005

TO: Kathleen Clinton, Regional Director
Alan Bullard, Regional Director
John Craven, Regional Director

FROM: Stephen H. Norris
Deputy Commissioner 

CC: Larry Latham, Ph.D.
Joanna Damons, R.N.
Marlenia Overholt, R.N.

TennCare recently announced that the proposed elimination of private duty nursing services for adults age 21 and over had been postponed until January 1, 2005. The Division of Mental Retardation Services will be working with TennCare to develop a transition process for enrollees whose nursing services will be transitioned from the TennCare MCOs to the HCBS waivers. At the present, the following apply:

- Individuals currently receiving nursing services through the HCBS waivers should continue to do so, as long as such services are medically necessary.
- For adults age 21 and over who are newly determined to need nursing services, request for coverage should be made through the TennCare MCOs.
- For children under age 21, the TennCare MCOs remain responsible for coverage of nursing services.

As a result of recent legislation, private ICF/MR's are being allowed to train unlicensed direct care staff to administer medications. We have received requests from the ICF/MR's to allow a limited number of their "trainer" staff to attend the medication administration provided by the Regional Offices, and we believe that these requests should be approved. Please let us know if such training becomes a resource issue for you.

It has been reported that TennCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) sometimes say that they cannot provide nursing services for adults over the age of 21 years due to not meeting the homebound status. The homebound requirement, however, was a Medicare requirement and is not applicable to Medicaid/TennCare. Medically necessary home health care may not be denied by TennCare MCOs because the person is not homebound or because such services are medically necessary on a long-term basis or are required for the treatment of a chronic condition. TennCare's definition of home health care includes nursing services delivered on a part-time or intermittent basis, home health aide services, and certain other therapies/services.

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